



AG DIGEST

Pennsylvania
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Highlights

**Farm Labor
 Agricultural Prices
 Poultry
 Livestock Slaughter
 Cattle On Feed
 Cold Storage**

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<http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm>

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF APRIL 9-15, 2000

Item	NE II ¹	U. S.
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	41	830
Expected to be Employed		
150 Days or More . . .	33	628
149 Days or Less . . .	8	202
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	41.7	40.4
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers ^{2,3}	7.84	8.12
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	7.21	7.58
Field	7.66	7.58
Livestock	6.00	7.56

¹NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the value are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

HIRED WORKERS UP 2 PERCENT

WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1.05 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 9-15, 2000, up 2 percent from a year ago. There were 830,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 217,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.8 percent of the April hired workforce compared to 8.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the April 2000 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.58 per hour, up 35 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned \$7.56 per hour compared with \$7.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 39.5 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Florida, Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) regions. In Florida, growers were making preparations to plant spring crops. Vegetable harvest continued in all major areas and nursery workers were very active. In the Northern Plains, corn planting was active in most of the region and producers were busy moving cattle to summer ranges. In the Southern Plains, land preparation and corn, soybeans, and sorghum plantings were active. The main farming activities in Corn Belt I included corn and some soybean plantings, applying fertilizer and herbicides, purchasing supplies, and preparing equipment. Calving and lambing were also active.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and California regions. Showers across most of the Appalachian II region, coupled with colder than normal temperatures, limited fieldwork. In Mountain III, above normal temperatures helped accelerate crop development versus a year ago. In California, scattered showers were reported in northern and central areas of the State. Four weeks of favorable dry and often warm weather helped advance field work and initial summer crop planting activity.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 2 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 102 based on 1990-92= 100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from the April index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, broilers, and peaches more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and asparagus. These marketing changes accounted for all of the May

index increase. Higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, hogs, and hay offset price decreases for strawberries, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes.

Compared with May 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.1 percent) higher. Price increases from May 1999 for cattle, lettuce, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for oranges, milk, cantaloupes, and strawberries.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MAY 2000

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		May 1999	Apr 2000	May 2000 ¹	May 1999	Apr 2000	May 2000 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn	Bu.	2.51	2.55	2.63	1.99	2.03	2.06
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	-	-	-	2.34	2.32	2.39
Oats	Bu.	1.52	1.77	1.79	1.31	1.35	1.35
Barley	Bu.	-	-	-	1.82	2.09	2.12
Hay, All	Ton	109.00	136.00	129.00	92.60	80.70	89.40
Alfalfa	Ton	128.00	149.00	145.00	96.60	84.50	93.90
Other	Ton	99.00	122.00	120.00	70.10	67.40	71.30
Apples, Fresh Use	Cwt.	18.00	-	-	13.30	19.70	18.20
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.60	9.90	9.20	6.18	6.29	6.53
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	37.90	40.10	40.90	36.40	39.80	39.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	60.30	69.00	70.60	65.20	75.20	73.20
Calves	Cwt.	104.00	108.00	110.00	87.60	111.00	109.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	36.20	44.40	45.90	37.00	47.80	49.20
Sows	Cwt.	26.10	35.00	38.30	28.00	37.60	40.80
Turkeys ²	Lb.	.400			.394	.398	.404
Broilers ²	Lb.	.370			.380	.365	.370
Eggs, ³	Doz.	.380	.540	.380	.352	.477	.314
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	14.00	13.20	-	12.80	12.00	12.00
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	11.20	9.70	-	11.60	10.20	10.20
All	Cwt.	14.00	13.20	13.30	12.70	11.90	12.00
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	-	1 300 00	-	-	1 340 00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² State price no longer published. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 9 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.91 million head on May 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 1999 and 12 percent above May 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.69 million, slightly below 1999 but 6 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.60 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 307,000, 700-799 pounds were 568,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 511,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.87 million, 4 percent below 1999 and 1 percent below 1998. April 2000 had two fewer weekdays than April 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during April, 13 percent below 1999 and 2 percent below 1998.

CATTLE ON FEED IN HISTORIC 7 STATES UP 9 PERCENT: Cattle on feed May 1, 2000, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.36 million, up 9 percent from the previous year and 13 percent above May 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.45 million, slightly above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

Marketings during April totaled 1.59 million, 5 percent below 1999 and down 1 percent from 1998. April 2000 had two fewer weekdays than April 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings. Other disappearance during April was 71,000 head, 9 percent below 1999 but 16 percent above 1998. The 7 States include AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS ¹

Commodity	Unit	May 1999	Apr 2000	May 2000
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat	Bu.	9.71	9.66	9.65
Corn	Bu.	6.64	6.67	6.65
Tobacco, PA Seedleaf, Type 41	Lb.	2.99	3.05	3.04
All Milk, Sold to Plants	Cwt.	30.60	31.60	31.50
Wool	Lb.	1.94	1.81	1.81
Barley	Bu.	5.94	5.95	5.94
Oats	Bu.	3.47	3.38	3.37
Potatoes	Cwt.	13.30	13.50	13.50
Rye	Bu.	5.06	5.21	5.20
Soybeans	Bu.	14.00	13.90	13.90
Apples, For Fresh Use ²	Lb.	.450	1.48	1.47
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	152.00	155.00	154.00
Calves	Cwt.	194.00	198.00	198.00
Hogs	Cwt.	102.00	102.00	102.00
Lambs	Cwt.	157.00	163.00	163.00
Sheep	Cwt.	65.30	67.60	67.50
Eggs	Doz.	1.50	1.51	1.51
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	.893	.920	.919

¹ Parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for month indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following calendar month. ² Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for apples for Washington and Oregon, equivalent first delivery point returns for California, and price at point of first sale for other states.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
APRIL 30, 2000

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 2,061,000 bushels on April 30, 2000, compared to 1,640,000 bushels on April 30, 1999. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: Rome with 543,000; Golden Delicious, 521,000; and York, 509,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 87,804,000 pounds on April 30, 2000, compared to 68,880,000 pounds on April 30, 1999. There were 26,000 pounds of pear stocks in cold storage on April 30, 2000, compared to 5,000 pounds on April 30, 1999.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2000 were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, chicken, and potatoes. April 2000 stocks of chicken, at 836 million pounds, broke the previous record April high of 820 million pounds set in 1999. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier. Butter stocks were 9 percent above March 2000 but 15 percent below a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were slightly above March 2000 but were 5 percent below April 1999. Frozen pork stocks were 3 percent below last month and were 16 percent below last year. Stocks of pork

bellies increased 5 percent from last month but were 42 percent below April 1999 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies were up 4 percent from last month but were 2 percent below last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from last month and were 2 percent above April 1999. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 7 percent from last month but were 9 percent below last year.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Apr 30, 1999	Mar 31, 2000	Apr 30, 2000
(000) Lbs.			
Butter	125,520	97,793	106,519
Cheese, Total Natural . . .	688,651	726,726	747,733
Eggs, Frozen	9,356	8,091	7,119
Poultry, Total Frozen . . .	1,281,033	1,202,340	1,253,319
Chicken	819,612	810,871	836,102
Turkeys	455,411	387,545	412,940
Fruits, Frozen	788,552	1,106,906	1,021,730
Fruit Juices, Frozen	2,949,233	2,208,480	2,401,181
Vegetables, Total Frozen . .	1,751,985	1,728,855	1,635,186
Potatoes, Total Frozen . . .	1,236,212	1,293,081	1,247,697
Meats, Total Frozen	936,388	887,647	888,373
Beef, Total Frozen	316,758	350,521	366,310
Pork, Total Frozen	596,929	515,212	499,235

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, APRIL 2000

Variety	April 30, 1999					April 30, 2000				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
(1,000) Bushels										
York	0	0	86	416	502	0	0	74	435	509
Stayman	0	8	5	0	13	0	15	6	2	23
Rome	0	33	156	238	427	0	62	155	326	543
Red Delicious . . .	0	134	94	54	282	0	139	98	100	337
Golden Delicious . .	0	42	93	143	278	0	58	124	339	521
Jonathan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McIntosh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cortland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other ²	1	15	67	55	138	4	30	70	23	127
Total	1	232	501	906	1,640	4	305	527	1,225	2,061

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PA & US, APRIL, 30, 2000

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	April 30, 1999	March 31, 2000	April 30, 2000
PENNSYLVANIA			
(1,000) Lbs.			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	21,084	45,472	21,599
Controlled Atmosphere . .	47,796	76,983	66,205
Total Apples	68,880	122,455	87,804
PEARS:			
Bartletts	0	0	0
Other Varieties	5	51	26
Total Pears	5	51	26
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	99,710	224,082	132,513
Controlled Atmosphere . .	1,757,990	2,241,156	1,751,456
Total Apples	1,857,700	2,465,238	1,883,969
PEARS:			
Bartletts	1,500	3,090	2,386
Other Varieties	67,698	130,340	102,591
Total Pears	69,198	133,430	104,977

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 1999	Mar 2000	Apr 2000	Apr 1999	Mar 2000	Apr 2000
Layers	Thous.	22,590	23,530	23,116	321,515	330,927	329,271
Eggs Per 100 Layers . . .	Number	2,249	2,303	2,241	2,110	2,186	2,130
Eggs Produced	Million	508	542	518	6,784	7,235	7,014
Chick Hatch-Egg Type . .	Thous.	6,527	6,300	5,148	41,950	39,560	36,621
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,782	12,787	12,983	734,734	756,351	743,516
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	26,817	25,741	24,932

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during April 2000 totaled 518 million eggs, 2 percent more than the 508 million produced in April 1999. The total number of layers averaged 21.4 million during April, 1 percent more than the 21.1 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,241 eggs during the month, compared with 2,249 the same month last year.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2000 totaled 5.15 million, 21 percent less than the 6.53 million hatched the previous April. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.0 million during April 2000, up 2 percent from the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.01 billion during April 2000, up 3 percent from the 6.78 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during April averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,130 eggs, compared with 2,110 in April 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during April totaled 36.6 million, 13 percent below April 1999. Broiler-type hatch totaled 744 million, 1 percent more than the previous April. There were 24.9 million turkey poults placed in the United States during April 2000, down 7 percent from the same month a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APR 2000

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	89.9	3,460
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	78.6	2,782
	Mil. Lbs. Live	98.9	3,344
Calves	Thous. Hd.	11.7	81
	Mil. Lbs. Live	4.5	28
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	179.1	7,210
	Mil. Lbs. Live	43.6	1,893
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	8.0	345
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.7	47

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during April 2000 totaled 89.9 million pounds, down 7 percent from April 1999. Beef production, at 98.9 million pounds live weight, was down 3 percent from April 1999. Total head slaughtered was 78,600 down 3.4 percent; and live weight averaged 1,259 pounds, an increase of 6 pounds. Veal production was 4.5 million pounds live weight, down 12 percent. Calf slaughter of 11,700 head was down 21 percent, and average live weight increased 41 pounds to 383 pounds. Pork production was 43.6 million pounds live weight, down 13 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 179,100, down 12.5 percent, and live weight was 243 pounds, 1 pound below a year ago. Lamb and mutton production was 681,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent. The number slaughtered was 8,000, up 5 percent, and average live weight declined 3 lbs to 85 pounds.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS
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